



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

Wichita Police to conduct DUI check lane

Wichita Police Officers are continuing their efforts to keep drunk drivers off Wichita streets, and will be conducting a DUI check lane from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. on April 29 (Sat/Sun), at 13th St. North and Ohio.

Drivers who approach the lane should be prepared to present their driver's license and proof of insurance. Any drivers who cannot produce these items, or who are suspected of driving under the influence, will be asked to pull over into another lane, according to Sergeant Chris McAuliffe, Wichita Police Department, Patrol North.

The Wichita Police Department will have a supervisor routinely monitoring the length of time it takes a motorist to proceed through the check lane when no violations have been detected. This process should take no more than five minutes.

If police suspect a person of DUI, and he/she refuses to submit to a sobriety test, he/she is subject to having their driver's license suspended for a year. Fines for Driving Under the Influence are progressive for each subsequent conviction and can result in a felony crime and

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imprisonment. The legal limit in the State of Kansas for adults is .08 percent Blood Alcohol Content. Those drivers under 21 years of age cannot have a blood alcohol content of more than .02 percent.

According to preliminary statistics released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities increased 1.7 percent from 16,694 in 2004 to 16,972 in 2005 – the first increase since 2002.

Wichita has seen 11 traffic fatalities between January 1 and April 26, 2006. Of those 11 fatalities, two of them, or 18 percent, were alcohol/drug related. During the same time period in 2005 there were nine fatalities, and three of them were alcohol/drug related.

This DUI check lane is just one part of the Wichita Police Department's Comprehensive Traffic Safety Enforcement Program. The program takes a four-prong approach to addressing traffic safety in the city of Wichita: education, enforcement, environment and awareness.

Funding for this enforcement effort is made possible through Weed and Seed. For more information, please contact Sgt. Chris McAuliffe or Capt. Felecia Norris at Patrol North at 688-9500.